

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
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P R 230316Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3447

CINCPAC

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3336

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR KS JA JS

SUBJ: ROKG THINKING ON GOJ RATIFICATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF
AGREEMENT

REF: 76 STATE 44842 (DTG 250554Z FEB 76)

1. ACTING FONMIN YOON HA-JONG CALLED IN AMBASSADOR ON APRIL
22 ON INSTRUCTIONS OF BLUE HOUSE. BURDEN OF YOON'S REMARKS
WAS THAT CHANCES WERE PESSIMISTIC AND AT BEST 50-50 THAT
JAPANESE DIET WOULD RATIFY THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT.
ROKG HAD WAITED THREE YEARS; IT COULD WAIT NO LONGER AND MUST
ACT UNILATERALLY TO COMMENCE DRILLING. ROKG THEREFORE WAS ASK-
ING THE AMBASSADOR FOR HELP TO GET THE KOREAN-AMERICAN OIL
CO. TO GO AHEAD WITH DRILLING IN THE STILL DISPUTED WATERS.

2. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED HE COULD NOT REPLY DEFINITELY
(WE WOULD REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS), BUT THE ROKG HAD PREVIOUSLY
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BEEN INFORMED THAT THE USG HAD APPLIED STANDARD GUIDANCE
AND ADVISED AMERICAN COMPANIES AGAINST DRILLING IN
DISPUTED WATERS ANYWHERE AND WARNED THEM AGAINST USING
AMERICAN SHIPS, CREWS, AND SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT.
WE WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT SPECIAL DANGERS
INVOLVING CHINESE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO WAIT TILL AFTER THE CURRENT DIET SESSION. EVEN IF THAT TURNED OUT BADLY, SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILED IN THAT THE LDP FACED UPPER HOUSE ELECTION AND WOULD WANT TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT AGREEMENT WAS BEING RAMMED THROUGH OPPOSITION PARTIES. ROKG WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER THE LDP ITS FRIEND AND WOULD NOT WANT TO HURT ITS CHANCES IN THE ELECTION. YOON AGREED.

4. AMBASSADOR STRESSED ROKG MUST GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO IMPLICATIONS OF UNILATERAL DRILLING ON ROKG-GOJ RELATIONS AND INDEED ON STABILITY OF NORTHEAST ASIA. HE POINTED OUT THAT, AMONG OTHER CONSEQUENCES, UNILATERAL ACTIONS COULD SO ADVERSELY AFFECT BROADER RELATIONSHIP AS TO ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENT GOJ-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS.

5. AMBASSADOR URGED PATIENCE ON PART ROKG WITH RESPECT CURRENT DIET SESSION. THEREAFTER, HE SUGGESTED THAT, IF TREATY FAILED TO PASS DIET, FIRST STEP WOULD BE TO CONSULT FULLY WITH GOJ. FURTHERMORE, AFTER UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS, GOJ COULD HAVE IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR DIET ACTION.

6. YOON REMAINED UNYIELDING, REFLECTING BLUE HOUSE INSTRUCTIONS. HE CONTINUALLY REPEATED THAT THEY HAD WAITED THREE YEARS AND DESPITE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAD PREVENTED RATIFICATION, SAW NO REASON TO EXPECT IT WAS MORE LIKELY IN THE FUTURE. IF KOREAN-AMERICAN COULDN'T DO THE DRILLING, THE ROKG WOULD LOOK ELSEWHERE.
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THE ROKG UNDERSTOOD USG CONCERNS, BUT COULD WAIT NO LONGER. HE POINTED OUT THAT GOJ GIVING PRIORITY TO 200 MILE ZONE ACTION, PLACING SOVIET PROBLEMS ABOVE KOREAN PROBLEMS IN IMPORTANCE. DESPITE ROKG ACTIONS TO BE HELPFUL ON BOTH 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEAS AND 200 MILE ZONE LEGISLATION.

7. COMMENT: YOON'S APPROACH UNDERSCORES THE PRESSURE GAME NOW MOUNTED BY ROKG TO PUSH FOR DIET PASSAGE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. PRESS TODAY CARRIES THREATS OF UNILATERAL ACTION. I GAVE YOON NO SYMPATHY, ENCOURAGEMENT, OR HOPE WE WOULD HELP WITH KOAM. NEVERTHELESS, ROKS DO HAVE CASE THAT, IN THIS ERA OF ENERGY SHORTAGES AND GIVEN BOTH JAPANESE AND KOREAN ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL, GOJ HAS STRONG CASE FOR PRESSING FOR DIET PASSAGE. FAILURE TO OBTAIN DIET ACTION WILL CLEARLY BE BITTER PILL FOR ROKG TO SWALLOW AND EMBITTER RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AT VERY TIME WHEN TWO COUNTRIES CONSIDER THEY HAVE EVERY REASON TO AND ARE CLOSING RANKS, EVEN IF UNILATERAL ACTION IS

NOT JUSTIFIED.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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